

--14. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said input signal is one of the time-divided signals.

15. (NEW) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said input signal is one of the time-divided signals.

C² 16. (NEW) A communication apparatus for a radio LAN system comprising:
rate-conversion-and-distribution means for time-divisionally distributing an input signal to be sent to a terminal into at least two signals and for down-converting said distributed signals into lower-rate signals;
transmitting means for providing said lower-rate signals separately to a plurality of base stations.

17. (NEW) A communication method for a radio LAN system comprising:
time-divisionally distributing an input signal to be sent to a terminal into at least two signals and down-converting the distributed signals into lower-rate signals;
~~transmitting the lower-rate signals separately to a plurality of base stations.--~~

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9, 11-12 and 14-17 are pending, claims 1-9 have been amended, claims 10 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 14-17 have been added. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

35 USC §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirinen. (U.S Patent No. 5,648,962) in view of the admitted prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks.

The present invention is directed to time-divisionally distributing an input signal to be sent to a terminal into at least two signals, which are then down-converted into lower-rate signals to be sent to respective base stations. Thus, claim 1 recites "time-divisionally distributing an input signal to be sent to a terminal into at least two signals; down-converting distributed signals into lower-rate signals; providing said lower-rate signals separately to a plurality of base stations." Claims 2, 6, 7 also recite substantially the same features recited in claim 1.

The Examiner asserts that Pirinen discloses a time slot switch 105 which receives and distributes a high rate TDM signal, converts the high rate TDM signal into a plurality of low rate signals and transmits the low rate signals from the transceivers in the form of RF signals. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that Pirinen does not disclose or suggest time-divisionally distributing an input signal to be sent to a terminal into at least two signals, down-converting distributed signals into lower-rate signals and providing said lower-rate signals separately to a plurality of base stations, as claimed in claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and newly added claims 16 and 17. Rather, Pirinen teaches that a time slot switch merely functions to send data from a buffer to a transceiver TRX when the status of a time slot selection register coincides with the status of a time slot counter (see col. 7, lines 23-52). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Newly added claims 14-17 are allowable in light of the foregoing remarks.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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614.1804/DSG

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

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Date: 3/24/00